

## STAFF REPORT

To: Revenue and Finance Committee Date: 9/28/2010  
From: Scott Burnette, Fire Chief  
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager  
Subject: Resolution Authorizing City Manager to Waive Burning Permit Fee for Flag Disposal Ceremonies

Summary Statement: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to waive the burning permit fee for the proper disposal of the United States Flag.

Review: The City of Asheville requires a permit for open burning within the city limits. Citizens obtain this permit at the Development Services Center and are charged \$52 to cover the operational costs associated with the permit. American Legion Post #2 recently applied for a burning permit for a United States Flag retirement program. They informed us that they hold this program every 6 months and that they retire about 50 flags according to the United States Flag Code procedures for proper disposal during these ceremonies.

Staff would like to recommend that Council waive the burning permit fee for these ceremonies as there is no other way to properly dispose of United States Flags. The operational cost involved in issuing this permit include administration of the permit application and an on site inspection of the open burning. The on site inspection typically takes 30 minutes of one staff members time.

This action complies with the City Council Strategic Operating Plan goals within Job Growth and Community Development in that it helps to reduce fees.

Pros:

- Citizens in Asheville will be able to properly dispose of flags according to the United States Flag Code without an associated cost of doing so.

Cons:

- None identified

Fiscal Impact: A minor reduction in revenue would occur as these permits would be issued without the \$52 fee. The recent request by the American Legion is the first that we have record of, so we do not anticipate a large number of these permits being issued.

Recommendation: City staff recommends City Council authorize the City Manager to waive the Burning Permit Fee for Flag Disposal Ceremonies